THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. In the past, there had been requests from foreign zoos for exchange of Gharials from Indian Zoos.

(b) At present, there is no such request pending with the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry for exchange of Gharials between Nandankanan Park and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Report of CBI about poaching of tigers in Sariska reserve

1318. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to form Tiger Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has submitted report about poaching of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17-03-2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Task Force has been constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a Preliminary Assessment ragarding disappearance of tigers in the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan. The report indicates that there is no evidence of tiger presence in Sariska, and the entire population seems to have become extinct primarily because of poaching. It is also reported that

since July, 2002, at least 2-3 organized networks of poachers were involved in poaching of tigers & leopards in the tiger reserve.

Statement

The terms of reference of the Task Force

1. Suggest measures to strengthen tiger conservation in the country.

2. Suggest measures to incentivise the local community in conservation of tigers.

3. Suggest measures to incentivise local forest staff posted in sanctuaries/national parks and ensure an effective HR plan for tiger conservation/wildlife managers.

4. Suggest measures to improve the methodology of tiger counting and forecasting.

5. Suggest methods of transparent professional audit of wildlife parks and placing data on tiger conservation in the public domain.

6. Suggest a new wildlife management paradigm that shares concerns of conservation with the public at large.

Alarming increase of Bhitarkanika crocodiles

1319. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that once endangered Bhitarkanika crocodiles are danger to humans now;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crocodile population in Bhitarkanika National Park has alarmingly increased and the man-crocodile clashes have resulted in a number of human beings falling victim to crocodile attacks; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save local people from crocodile attacks in Bhitarkanika National Park?